“Then and Now” Open House

On Sunday, October 25, 2-4 p.m., the Chippewa County Historical Society will hold an Open House in order to showcase its latest exhibit of photographs, entitled “Then and Now: The Changing Face of Sault Ste. Marie.” The exhibit will feature 36 historical photographs, paired with contemporary images of the same locations, shot from the same viewpoint. Most of the historical photographs were taken by the Sault’s long-time professional photographer Walter Materna.

CCHS was given a large number of Maternas negatives by his family in 1997 and additional ones in 2009. The Society recently obtained a grant from the city’s Governor Chase S. Osborn Trust Fund to support a project to assess, scan, and catalog the images in a searchable database, and the forthcoming exhibit is the first fruit of the project, which has resulted in an archive of over 1,000 images so far.

Project Director Bernie Arbic, who took most of the contemporary photographs after the historical scenes for the exhibit were chosen by a panel of six Society volunteers, stated, “Terms of our grant from the city specified that we would hold an exhibit to give the Sault’s citizens a chance to view the pictures once we had scanned a sufficient number of the negatives. When one of the volunteers suggested the idea of pairing up contemporary views with some of the most interesting historical photos, we all immediately liked the idea. So this exhibit is the outcome, and we decided that a book to accompany the exhibit would be a good addition to the original plan. Dee Stevens and I teamed up to add carefully researched captions to the images that the panel selected, and we were excited about the book—the publication of which was also supported by the Governor Chase S. Osborn Trust Fund—that has come out of the project. And I’m proud to say that many Sault businesses and individuals [see list on insert] also supported the publication of the book.”

Join us on October 25, from 2-4 p.m. for “Then and Now” Open House!

Join us on December 6, from 2-4 p.m. for “An American Café” Open House!
The Historic Block had a successful summer with music by Susan Askwith and Dave Stars and programs by Peter DeCourcy, Aline Fitzmaurice, and Jennifer Payten at the Johnston House. You may view Susan and Dave performing in the Johnston House as “Heritage Singers of the Soo” on http://www.youtube.com/dalsloch. The Sault History Fest raised $1,958 for the Baraga House through the Fish Boil, sponsored by the Sault Convention and Visitors Bureau, as well as from donations, and 50/50 ticket sales. The exterior of the Johnston House was painted at the end of the summer. Dennis Hank lent a Soot Line train display to the Kemp Industrial Museum.

Sault History Fest

History Fest 2009, held on August 14 and 15 was a window into the past. Water Street in front of the historic houses and Glenn, Avenue were both closed, which made for a “village green” kind of feeling and, after a cold, rainy summer, the weather cooperated beautifully. The event actually began outside the Johnston House on August 12 when Ron Paquin started building a birch bark canoe in the traditional way and an encampment was set up behind the Johnston House. The canoe building was made possible through grants from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the Sault Ste. Marie Chasse S. Osborn Trust Fund.

Friday night activities included a delicious all-you-can-eat fish boil sponsored by the Sault Convention and Visitors Bureau. This was accompanied by great musical entertainment from the stage. Saturday was very busy with the buildings being open and ongoing activities on both sides of the street. Musical entertainment, demonstrations, historic displays, and children’s games continued throughout the day, and there were food booths available. All the buildings were open for viewing with enactors portraying John and Susan Johnston and Jane Johnston Schorkoll. There were well over 150 visitors to the Johnston House, many of them for the first time.

The Schoolcraft House porch and lawn were busy with historic demonstrations and vendors. People were able to see the working stage at the Baraga House and tour the Kemp Industrial Museum. In addition there was an early 20th century fish camp display; antique vehicles and canoes, historic plants, and tour the Kemp Industrial Museum. In addition there was an early 20th century fish camp display; antique vehicles, historic plants, and tour the Kemp Industrial Museum.

The book would almost certainly have been forgotten.

We keep adding books and other items to the shop, including such hard-to-find books as Life on a Lovely Shore: A History of the Vermilion Port Life-Saving Station by Edward J. Canfield (1991) and The John Johnston Family of Sault Ste. Marie by Elizabeth Hamilton (1982). (Thank you to the River of History Museum for these books.) Stop by to see what we have. Bernie Arbic and Dave Steventon have 200 more books and other items available at the shop for $10.00 plus tax; it would make a great gift. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped us this summer and fall. Bob Arifstrom, Mike Bennett, Sharron Faust, Stephanie Gumm, Elizabeth Weis, Norajean Wilcox, Alison Youngs, Mary Youngs, as well as Board members Nancy Steinhans, Mary M. June, and Bernice Arfstrom, on occasion. We were able to stay open late on Wednesdays and be open on occasional Saturdays during the Sault Farmers’ Market. We thank Jim Lucas from the MSU Extension Program and Ann Marie Smith from Bayfield Public Library for helping promote us. The shop was open most Saturdays, Fridays, from 1-4 p.m.; through October 15. We hope to have the gift shop open at least one day a week until Christmas; planning is in progress. The shop is also open by appointment and during office hours. Please do call ahead (635-7082), to see if we are open. The shop will be open during special events, including Sunday, October 25, 2-4 p.m. (see “Then and Now” Open House) and Sunday, December 6, 2-4 p.m. (see Open House for Peter Gianakura). It will also be open on November 28 and 29 during Downtown Shopping Days.

Gift Shop

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